

Active Pallbearers

Deacon Jason Crawford

Brother Gary Berry

Deacon Micheal Garrett

Brother Chris McKnight

Deacon Draper Jenkins

Brother George Brumsey

Acknowledgement

Words cannot adequately convey what we feel, but we, the family of **Billy McCalla, Jr.** want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the flowers, cards, food and any act of kindness and most of all your prayers. Our family will always be grateful for the continuous and loving manner in which all of you have expressed your concern during this period of bereavement. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Please keep our names rested upon your prayers. May God forever bless each of you.

The McCalla & London Family

Interment

Repast

Cedars Memorial Garden

St. Paul Missionary - Fellowship Hall

1830 S. Pacific Street

304 Stone Street

Mineola, TX 75773



To view on-line funeral media for
Mr. Billy Gene McCalla, Jr. visit London's Mortuary
website at: www.londonsmortuary.com

Services Entrusted To

London's Mortuary



"Providing A Dignified and Comforting Memory"

176 County Road 2503~ Mineola, TX 75773~ (903) 569-5404

Rodney London Manager

Robin London Funeral Director/Embalmer

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BILLY GENE McCALLA, JR.

Sunrise

B

March 14, 1951

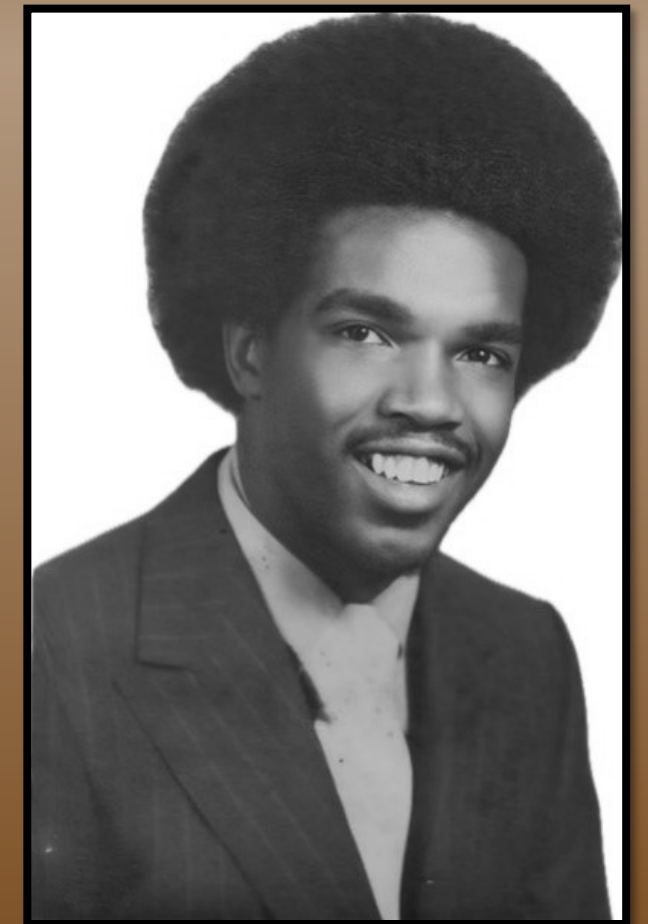
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G

Sunset

March 1, 2024



SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024~ 1:00 P. M.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

304 Stone Street

Mineola, TX 75773

Reverend Demethrius Boyd, Pastor

Billy Gene McCalla, Jr. **“BIG”**

A man of Faith, Wisdom, Strength, Compassion, Family, and Storytelling.

His story begins on March 14, 1951, in Mineola, Texas, when Billy Gene Sr. & Virginia (London) McCalla, welcome their second child into the world. They named their healthy baby boy, Billy Jr, and to those who knew and loved him, called him “Big.”

Billy grew up in Mineola being the only boy with his four sisters, Theresa, Jackie, Vickie, and Carol, being the protective brother, and an outdoors adventurer. He got a bonus baby brother, “Sanman” in 1976. He accepted Christ at an early age at St. Paul Baptist Church under Rev C.C. Colquitt. He attended the Addie E. McFarland Elementary and High School before segregation ended and the schools merged, graduating from Mineola High School in 1969. He always said that some of his favorite memories were going up to his grandparents, Marcus “Paw Red” & “Mama” Anna (Parker) McCalla house, fishing, and hunting with his buddies Winston and Gary Thompson, getting into a little trouble and riding his motorcycle with his buddies Hentze McKissic aka “Bubba”, Thomas Pratt, and George Brumsey.

After high school, he attended Prairie View A&M University, earning his Degree in Agriculture, in 1973. Along his journey, he met the love of his life when he was a teenager by the name of Debra Greggs, and they would later marry in 1972. With this union, two daughters and a son were born to this blissful marriage.

Having a dedicated work ethics, Billy was a Federal Meat Grader for the United States Department of Agriculture, working, traveling, and managing at the federal meat grade plant, for various companies for over 35 years before he retired in 2021. Outside of work he enjoyed fishing, bike riding, playing softball, coaching little league, and helping his hometown and community by maintaining the Mineola Black Cemetery, assisting his grandmother, Mrs. Floy Hutson until she was no longer able to be the caretaker. He became a Deacon at St. Paul in 1999 under the leadership of Rev. James Lister and would later become the right-hand man to current Pastor, Rev. Demethrius Boyd. Billy loved his church and acquired vast knowledge of its history. He was a member of Deacon Board, a Trustee, and Sunday School Teacher. He was a board member of the Addie E. McFarland foundation, serving as treasurer and all-around steward of the Community Center and grounds.

To Our Hero

Dad, I am so grateful that I was able to have you in my life for 48 years. I will miss our talks and the guidance you provided to help me navigate through life. I could talk to you about anything, and I always knew everything would be all right at the end of our conversations. You were a peaceful and humble man that knew that the Lord would make a way as long as we stayed focused on him and His word. If a book were written regarding the memories, you shared of your childhood it would be a bestseller. Readers would read nonstop eagerly reading with anticipation of the next adventure shared with you and your friends or the love of your life. It has been a blessing to watch what true love looks like between you and mom. You have inspired me to be the best possible version of me. I will forever cherish your words of wisdom. You have been an awesome role model, and I will continue to strive to make you proud. I love you and I will miss you dearly.

-Shea

My father meant the world to me, and I am so blessed to have a dad who was full of wisdom and had my back. I will always remember the joy it brought you when we came home to visit, it made you so happy and you would have a smile on your face. My dad always had jokes and could tell some funny stories and say some of the funniest things. He loved to be outside mowing, fishing, gardening, and staying busy. He was a Christian man that read his bible daily and was very spiritually connected with the Lord. He went to church faithfully and was a servant of the Lord. It makes me happy to see how you were loved by so many people including the community and your church family. If you met or knew my dad, you are blessed because he was an overall great man. I feel so special to know that my dad impacted so many people lives...what a great man he was. Dad, your gentle spirit and your kindness and love for your family will forever be missed. I'm so happy you taught me how to put the string in my weed eater last year because I can't bring it home to you anymore. You were so wise, I just felt you had an answer for every question I would ask you. I'm sad I can't call you anymore or see the smile on your face when I come home. I will eat dark chocolate and Starbucks lemon loaf in memory of you. Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to have 45 years with a loving father. The love from a father and the great memories will forever be in my heart. I can't wait to see you again daddy...see you in heaven.

-Forever heartbroken, your baby girl Montrai

Dad. I am just stuck...I am trying my best to not question the Universe, but the wave of emotions is constantly flowing. I just knew you were going to Live a long time and the pain that I feel...I am still numb. Thank You for the examples you have set...I had an amazing childhood, (Karate, Little League, and Cub Scouts), and boy were you patient with me in my early years of adulthood. You were the coolest Dude ever. I didn't get it growing up, but I'm thankful for our talks, and you always went above and beyond for me. God gave me an amazing Father and I will forever be proud to be your “Sonny boy.” I am trying to hold it together for Mom and the girls, but it's hard. Even so, I will take it from here, Dad. If I can be half the man, you were, it will truly be my honor. You've earned your Peace, Rest in Paradise with the Ancestors, and the Kingdom of Light.

- Bradley



Order of Service

Processional	Ministers, Pallbearers & Family
Scriptures	
Old Testament	Deacon Jason Crawford
New Testament	Deacon Oscar Caraway
Prayer of Comfort – Elder Lanny Williams	
White’s Temple Church of God in Christ ~ Jacksonville, TX	
Musical Selection	St. Paul Music Ministry
Remarks	(Limit 2 minutes please)
Resolutions	(St. Paul) Rachelle Tennyson
Musical Selection	St. Paul Music Ministry
Eulogy –	Pastor Demethrius T. Boyd St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Parting View	London Mortuary
Recessional	Soft Music

Family was everything to Billy. His wife Debra, his children, his granddaughters, his siblings, and their families, were his pride and joy. Big’s biggest joy was always being outside gardening, mowing and anything to do with outdoors. He could tell stories for days, a jokester, wanting to make you laugh, and did not ever meet a stranger. He always wanted the best for people and was always finding a positive outlook on life and could give the best advice when needed.

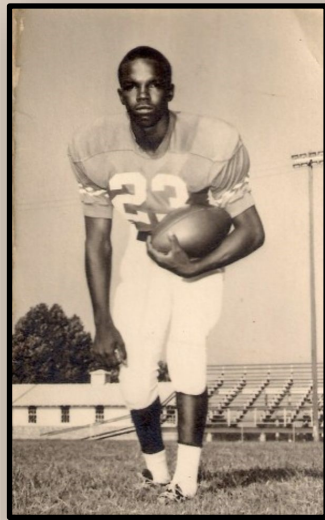
Billy was suddenly called home on Friday, March 1, 2024, leaving his family and community heartbroken, but God needed him more, and told his servant well done and come home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Billy, Sr. & Virginia McCalla, and his big Sister, Theresa “Poodie” Cooke.

Gone but never forgotten, He will continue to live on through his wife of almost 52 years, Debra McCalla; his son, Bradley Gene McCalla of Houston, TX; daughters, Shea (Jeremy) Abraham of Sachse, TX, and Montrai McCalla of Rowlett, TX; granddaughters, Hailey Abraham, and Madalyn Trammell. His sisters, and brother, Jackie McCalla of Tyler, TX, Vickie McCalla of Dallas, TX, Carol McCalla-Cleveland of Mineola, TX, and LaDouphyous (Melinda) McCalla of Humble TX. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Ruthie Greggs of Dallas, TX, his sisters in law, Shirley (Claude) Pettigrew, and Kathleen (Clemmie) Skief both of Dallas, TX; brothers in law, Tillman Cooke of Mineola, and Charles Greggs of Dallas, TX. He was also a Father figure to Quadre Pettigrew, Joshua Spencer Jr, and Chayd Pettigrew. His Nieces and Nephews; Jocelyn Cooke, Brian McCalla, Toni (Royce) Kennedy, Andrew McCalla, Trevion McCalla, Maegan McCalla, Patrice (Anthony) Pettigrew-Washington, Ebony Jackson, Corey Jackson and Clemmie Skief Jr. His Cousins; Martha Ann (Roberson) Taylor, Barbara Roberson, Rodney (Robin) London, Herman London III, Gwen (Larry) Brown, Verlinda McCalla, Marcus McCalla III, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives. Life-long Friends; Hentze “Bubba” McKissic, Billy Mack Bradley, Winston Thompson, and Gary Thompson.



*Always
IN OUR
Hearts*





Precious Memories

